The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Write Your Senators And Congressmen to Repeal T-H Law

WHOLE NO. 1090 — WILLIAM GREEN, *President* — WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, MAY 31, 1949 — GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer* — VOL. 39, NO. 22

Meany Predicts Greater Role For Labor In Political Battles Against Reaction

New York.—George Meany, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, predicted that organized labor will go as far down the road of political action "as time and events prove necessary to carry out the basic purpose of raising, maintaining and protecting the standards of life of the workers of this nation."

Mr. Meany reviewed the participation of the AFL in political affairs in an address before the 5th annual dinner meeting of the Liberal party of New York state here. He was one of several speakers including Senator Paul H. Douglas of Illinois; Adolf A. Berle, state chairman of the party, and Louis Lefkor, author and political analyst.

Mr. Meany declared that the real awakening as to the need for political action by labor came after the enactment of the Taft-Hartley law in 1947, which demonstrated clearly that "there could be no future progress made by labor unless it became an active and dynamic political force."

He added:

"For the first time, I venture to say, in the history of the American Federation the entire membership approached the question of politics realistically. The result, as you well know, was the action of the 1947 convention of the American Federation of Labor creating a permanent political arm for the AFL through the establishment of Labor's League for Political Education—which provided a basis for direct political action by the American Federation of Labor, all its constituent unions as well as its individual members and also provided for comprehensive participation in this political work by all liberal and progressive groups who believe in the principles and ideals of the trade union movement.

"Starting along about the first of April in 1948, Labor's League for Political Education achieved a certain success in the campaign that followed—in fact, some of our people thought that we had won a complete victory over the reactionary forces that had dominated the 80th Congress. Some even thought that the results of the 1948 election would change the attitude of the Hallecks and the Martins and the others in Congress who represent the philosophy and the interests of the National Association of Manufacturers.

"However, what has happened to date in the 81st Congress indicates quite clearly that while labor won the battle in 1948—it has by no means won the war.

"Despite the fact that the issues in which labor is interested—including the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act—were presented clearly and definitely to the American people in the 1948 campaign, and despite the fact that the American people gave a clear mandate to the Congress on these issues by its vote in 1948, there is still more than 50 percent of the House of Representatives who refuse to recognize this mandate. This is indicated by the roll call vote taken in the House a few weeks ago on the Wood bill."

Mr. Meany quoted from a statement released by the AFL Executive Council which said that the actual political situation in the 81st Congress is a "tug of war between reactionary forces from both parties on one side and liberals from both parties on the other."

The AFL leader charged that the programs of the Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers which demand every legislative advantage they can obtain from the reactionaries, represents a challenge that labor "cannot and does not ignore." He said:

"We will not stay at dead center. We either move in the direction indicated by the program of the Chamber of Commerce or we move forward toward a better day for America's little people under the program of labor. To move in the direction of business dictatorship will depend on the Tafts, the Hallecks or the Martins in Congress. Nor can we expect aid from those on the Democratic side of the aisle who determine human values by the color of a person's skin. What is necessary is action to protect the progress and achievements of the past. Without unity in the struggle, labor must move in the direction of intelligent and energetic political action.

"I am firmly convinced that labor can produce men who will be effective in the political arena. What has happened here in New York City is a case in point. It definitely indicates that men and women who spent their days and years in the shops and factories are by no means lacking in political sagacity. Labor has many advantages in politics which I need not point out to this audience. Labor has the will and surely it has the incentive. The stakes are high.

"We are living today in a world where millions of people are literally hungry for freedom and democracy. These millions look to the United States of America with faith and hope. To whatever extent America fulfills its destiny as the citadel of human freedom depends in great measure on the success of labor in the political progressive action during the next few years.

"Let me again assure you that the American Federation of Labor is going to do its full part in this fight. As to the outcome, I, for one, have no misgivings or doubts."

Throngs See Union Industries Show

Crowds like that above thronged the vast Public Auditorium in Cleveland to witness the spectacle presented by the 1949 Union Industries Show, an annual event sponsored by the AFL's Union Label Trades Department to tell the public the story of successful labor-management relations. The photo shows the main floor of the exhibit hall. Similar scenes were the rule in a larger basement area.

Typical of the exhibits which drew the admiring glances of thousands of spectators was that of the National Biscuit Company pictured above. Union members are demonstrating the skill and techniques required in their trade.

Cleveland.—The 1949 Union Industries Show held here in the huge Public Auditorium proved to be one of the most outstanding in the 4-year history of the events staged by the AFL's Union Label Trades Department.

Capacity crowds thronged the huge exhibit hall each day during the 5-day exposition which offered a great display of union-made products and interesting demonstrations of union skills.

H. M. Ornburn, director of the show and secretary-treasurer of the Union Label Trades Department, declared that he was well pleased with the results of this year's exposition. He added that the annual events were becoming so popular that it is increasingly difficult to find large enough halls to adequately handle the varied displays of both manufacturers and unions. He said that the plans are on expanding attends to explore the possibilities of using a large city to host the house the exhibition.

Mr. Ornburn said that the date for the 1950 exhibit has been set for May 8-14 and will be staged in Philadelphia.

The Cleveland show was televised throughout the nation over the facilities of the National Broadcasting Company's television network. In shopper, motion pictures in full color were taken of the various displays and later shown in theatres all over the country.

Thus, in addition to the thousands who visited the show in person, millions of others will be able to see the great spectacle which had for its theme the fundamental demonstration the beneficial results of good teamwork between AFL unions and fair-minded employers.

AFL Unions Expose Abuses Of 'Shell' Housing Projects

Chicago.—To protect home buyers from exploitation, the Chicago Building Trades Council (AFL) has begun intervening to correct abuses of so-called "shell" housing projects.

A committee of the building trades council on May 24 to inform them they may not use skilled union craftsmen to start a house for amateurs to finish.

Chicago veterans, desperate for a place to live, have been victimized repeatedly by promoters of "shell" housing projects. These are "unfinished" homes, with promises that buyers can save thousands of dollars by finishing the job themselves.

The shells usually consist of 4 walls, a few studs to hold the roof up, a subfloor, a roof and not much else. Sometimes there is not even a basement.

The buyer has to do the plumbing, wiring, plastering, painting, install the heating system, sand down the floors, put on the trim and a thousand other chores he never thought of when he bought it.

Or, he can hire a specialty contractor for each of several different phases of the finishing work. The buyer usually will be charged far more than the same contractor would have charged a general contractor, so the buyer will wind up paying more than if he had hired him for a finished house.

Most shell buyers try to do most of the work themselves, or try to hire a handy man or two to help. If a helper is hurt on the job, the home owner, with no workmen's compensation, pays the bill again.

If he tries to do the work himself, he soon finds there are tricks to every trade which only experience can teach.

"With 20 years of construction experience," said Earl J. McMahon, secretary-treasurer of the council and of the Illinois State Federation of Labor, "I'd be afraid to do it myself."

Anybody can screw a hinge into a door and into a door frame, but that doesn't guarantee the door will hang right or that the man who tries to fit a lock can easily ruin the door.

The council's decision follows an investigation of several weeks. Rather than wreck the hopes of family men already committed to shell home contracts, the crafts are to start a drive to educate buyers to shun such construction.

Instead, the craft leaders are simply informing contractors that union tradesmen may not be used unless there is definite assurance that a project begun will be completed in a satisfactory manner.

"We are simply making a determined effort to protect the American home owner against exploitation," said McMahon.

Construction Employment Rose in April, Housing Starts Lag Behind 1948 Level

Washington.—Employment in contract construction in mid-April totaled 1,965,000, according to preliminary estimates of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This is an increase of 127,000 workers over the revised March estimate, and is 32,000 above the number employed in April 1948.

For the 4 months of 1949, total expenditures for new construction amounted to $5 billion, against $4.8 billion for the corresponding period of 1948.

At the same time the bureau reported that home-building activity moved sharply upward in April, with 86,000 new permanent nonfarm dwelling units started. This represents a gain of 24,000 units, or 39 percent, over the preliminary March estimate, but is 13,500 or 14 percent, under the number started in April 1948, when home building was approaching the highest monthly rate on record.

The bureau's estimate of 244,000 new dwelling units put under construction during April 1949 is the number of new 35,500 (17 percent) under the corresponding month of 1948.

Telegraphic reports from principal cities of the United States show seasonal increases in most sections of the country. The number of new dwelling units authorized for construction by local permits issued. Among the cities showing substantial increases were Montgomery, Ala.; Denver, Colo.; Washington, D. C.; Baltimore, Md.; Greensboro, N. C.; East Orange, N. J.; New York, N. Y.; and Seattle, Wash.

Gains in the first part of 1949 were pronounced for most types of public construction. Expenditures for educational facilities totaled over a quarter of a billion dollars from January through April of this year.

Chicago Transit Workers Seek Pay Raise; Press Ignores Union Position in Dispute

By DAN SMYTH
Chicago Correspondent for AFL News Service

Chicago.—Two AFL unions, which have just won an excellent new pension plan for their members through arbitration proceedings, are following up with requests for wage increase demands.

The wage demands are in the face of published remarks by officers of the Chicago Transit Authority that whether transit system would have to call any general wage fares, or both, to carry out the pension award.

Judge William V. Bodman, chairman of the pension arbitration board, agreed in the ruling that the pension plan was no ground for a fare boost. The unions have attacked the authority's argument as phony, but practically the Chicago press has been one-sided, against the unions.

Even as the arbitration board was weighing its evidence, the Chicago Tribune criticized the whole proceeding, intimating that pensions are predicated on the principle that "the new contracts.

A raise in fares for the Chicago street car fare of 1 cent would bring $5,000,000 a year additional revenue into the transit authority, according to a union estimate. If the wage demands are met on top of the pension victory, the authority probably will try to raise fares from 13 up to 18 cents and blame the unions for it.

ECA ADOPTS 50-50 PLAN FOR ERP AID SHIPMENTS

Washington.—The Economic Cooperation Administration has issued regulations specifying that at least half of all Marshall Plan-financed recovery cargoes be carried on United States ships.

Effective immediately, the ECA said, 50 percent of foreign aid materials must be shipped on American vessels—otherwise the recovery agency will not pay for the goods or for shipping costs.

The recovery agency stated the action results from a congressional amendment to the European Recovery Act guaranteeing the American merchant marine at least a 50-50 split.

AFL MAN ASSAILS BYRD; ASKS LIBERAL FOR GOVERNOR

Richmond, Va.—Delegates to the 53d annual convention of the Virginia State Federation of Labor, AFL, adopted a resolution directing the union to back "liberal" candidates for "servile politicians" of Wall Street Republicanism."

Paul J. Smith, gray-haired veteran organizer for the AFL in the South, took the floor after the delegates had returned all of their state leaders to office except one executive board member and a delegate-at-large.

He urged the union men to get out and elect a "liberal" governor in Virginia in the forthcoming gubernatorial primary. A little further effort for labor, he added, and Virginia will have a "liberal" Legislature.

AFL Dairy Unions Win Wage Boosts

Chicago.—Two AFL unions, representing 8,200 employes of the Chicago dairy industry, have negotiated a $10 weekly wage increase, plus improved welfare benefits.

The Dairy Employes Union, Local 754 of the teamsters' international, signed up the wage increase and for 12 "fringe" improvements for 5,000 employes of the city dairy lines. The Transit Authority took over the properties a year ago through purchase from 2 private transportation systems. The city owns the Transit Authority.

Wages are now $1.46 an hour for motormen, $1.41 for conductors, $1.39 for garage men and $1.52 for switchmen on the elevated trains. Workers now receive 21 days' vacation after 20 years' service, and 14 days for shorter service. The unions are demanding 18 days for 10 years' service in the new contracts.

Basic weekly pay of drivers now becomes $77, not counting commissions. The increase is retroactive to May 1.

By increasing the employer's pension contribution from 50 cents per man per week to $1.20, a monthly pension of $60 for 40 months will be made available, instead of $40 for 24 months, as formerly.

Under the new agreement, milk drivers for the first time will enjoy a 2-week vacation yearly after 15 years' service.

The night differential was raised from 5 percent of wages to 10 percent.

In both cases a strike was voted by the workers, but the disputes were settled with help of a federal conciliator.

Note to Editors

In view of the Memorial Day holiday, May 30, the regular Tuesday issue of the AFL Weekly News Service is being mailed to you in advance.

The next regular edition will be mailed to all papers on Friday, June 3. The issue of May 27 is being omitted.

AFL Backs Federal Discrimination Ban; Says FEPC Law Aid to U. S., World Unity

Washington.—The American Federation of Labor urged the House to swiftly enact HR 4453, a bill to prohibit discrimination in employment, in order to "promote national unity at home and good-will and cooperation throughout the world."

In a strong statement before the House Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, Lewis G. Hines, national legislative representative for the AFL, declared that the right to employment without discrimination because of race, color, religion, or national origin is a right of all persons within the jurisdiction of the United States, and that it is the national policy to protect the right of the individual to be free from such discrimination.

To carry out this policy the proposed bill lists certain unlawful employment practices and sets up a 5-man Fair Employment Practice Commission for its administration. Under the measure, the commission would be encouraged to use conciliatory methods to the utmost before resorting to legally enforcible orders.

Summing up his argument in support of a national FEPC law, Mr. Hines declared:

"By promptly enacting the FEPC law, we will be assuring the good will of millions in our own nation who belong to minority groups. We will make America, whatever may be his color, creed, or national origin, will have an equal right to share in our American way of living. At the same time, we will demonstrate undeniably to the nations of the world that we intend to practice effectively at home all the principles and ideals which we have espoused in our international relations."

Citing the long interest of the AFL in the question of discrimination in employment relations, Mr. Hines emphasized that AFL law is particularly needed today. He said:

"It is needed, first of all, because discrimination and undue unemployment opportunities to minority groups is likely to be far more serious in a period of declining employment than in a period of maximum demand for labor.

"The old saying frequently applied to negroes and other minorities that they are 'last to be hired and first to be fired' has no place in America today. If we are entering a period of declining employment, opportunities should be available on an equal basis to all."

Mr. Hines declared that the effect of discriminatory practices to deny members of minority groups job opportunities, facilities, and equal pay has been to depress their living standards. He cited figures to show that among negroes unemployment is 67.1 percent higher than among whites and their income shows a similar wide disparity. The AFL spokesman cited reports of the Bureau of Labor Statistics which revealed that in 27 communities in the South, surveyed in 1947, while war veterans had an average weekly income ranging from 30 to 78 percent above the income of negro veterans.

Depressed living standards among minority groups, Mr. Hines declared, have resulted in a "large incidence of sickness, bad housing, juvenile delinquency, and other social and physical ills among these groups which has transmitted a very serious cost to society at large."

Declaring that the proposed FEPC bill will not bring about any magical transformation in society to tolerance on the part of individuals, Mr. Hines declared that it does make it impossible for personal prejudices "to be the principal factor denying equal employment opportunities to any person because of his race, religion or national origin.

"It is an extremely important step forward," he said, "toward assuring equality before the law to all segments of the American people."

ITU Demands NLRB Ban Denham's Injunction Club

Washington.—Attorneys for the AFL's International Typographical Union urged the National Labor Relations Board to remove Robert E. Denham, its general counsel, authority to ask for court injunctions against unfair labor practices brought under the Taft-Hartley law because he had abused his discretion.

They claimed the Denham board has used the injunction club to force union through a needlessly long and expensive trial.

Henry Kaiser is leveling the union's final argument in the Taft-Hartley Act case brought by the American Newspaper Publishers Association, said that Mr. Denham was guilty of "contemptible, craven, fawning down to the pressure" of the newspaper industry.

The ANPA case was started in the fall of 1947, and the union was enjoined by a federal court in Indianapolis in March 1948, pending the board's disposition of the publisher charges of union discrimination against the union is violation of the law's antiboard shop section.

Mr. Denham, who is independent of the board, does not concede that his discretionary authority to seek injunctions is a grant from the board. He holds that the authority is granted by the act itself.

Gerhard P. Van Arkel, associate of Mr. Kaiser, accused the board of "bloody treatment" of the union's entire party in the case to dismiss one of the charges in the complaint. This referred to a charge that the ITU had coerced or restrained publishers from refusing to bargain or causing local unions to refuse to bargain.

When final of the case started in December 1947, the union moved for dismissal of this charge. The board directed that testimony be taken on this point and said it would later decide whether it should hear that a refusal to bargain coerced or restrained employers. Since then the board held in a National Maritime Union case that this section of the law was aimed at physical and violent coercion.

Mr. Van Arkel said the ITU case has spared many weeks of hearing and thousands of dollars if the board had heard its motion and made a ruling when the ITU first raised the issue.

ILO Stresses Manpower Problems In World Recovery in Report to UN

Geneva.—The International Labor Organization has submitted a special report to the United Nations that problems of manpower were underlined or published in number nor in scope in the ILO's annual report. The report is dual: covers the ILO's activities between 1948, and February, 1949. The report was made public here. It will be submitted to the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

The lack of skilled workers and technicians, according to the report, is a serious obstacle to economic development and reconstruction. The failure to strike a balance between manpower demand and supply remains a problem. In discussing the manpower problem, the report declares.

It recalls that in the past the ILO has concentrated largely on the formulation of international standards and on research. However, as demands increased for practical technical assistance in solving the manpower problems, instead of 640 for 12 months, as formerly.

The night differential was raised from 5 percent of wages to 10 percent.

In both cases a strike was voted by the workers, but the disputes were settled with help of a federal conciliator.

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AFL Sends Food to Berlin Rail Strikers; Hails Valiant Fight of German Workers

New York.—Matthew Woll, chairman of the AFL's international labor relations committee, announced that the AFL has arranged to send $5,000 worth of CAE food parcels to striking Berlin railroad workers.

This action is the latest gesture on the part of the American Federation of Labor which, through its relief arm, the Labor League for Human Rights, distributed during and since the war thousands of dollars worth of relief packages to free trade unionists in Europe who are battling against the infiltration tactics of Soviet Russia.

Announcing this action, Mr. Woll released the text of a cable sent to the U. G. O., the anti-Communist federation of labor in Berlin, which reads as follows:

"Please convey Berlin striking railroad workers our warmest solidarity, their courageous fight against Russian totalitarian oppressors and Moscow's menial German stooges, the Communist scabs, is vital phase of international labor struggle for social justice and human freedom. In token of our moral and material support we have arranged immediate shipment of $5,000 worth of food in CARE parcels for strikers and their families. Long live free trade unionism throughout Germany and the world."

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, *President* | WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 1949 | GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Write Your Senators And Congressmen to Repeal T-H Law

TVA Labor Report, Kept Secret by Ball, Praises AFL Unions For Role Played

Washington.—A group of AFL unions representing workers on projects of the Tennessee Valley Authority is won long overdue praise here with the release of a report prepared by Congress' Joint Committee on Labor-Management Relations.

Supressed by former Senator Joseph H. Ball while he was chairman of the committee during sessions of the 80th Congress, the report was finally released to the public by the present committee chairman, Senator James E. Murray of Montana.

The comments of Mr. Murray in a foreword to the report give an adequate explanation of why the labor-baiting ex-Senator Ball refused to order its publication. Senator Murray declared that the official study revealed that through the excellent working relationship in existence between the AFL unions and the TVA officials, TVA's labor history has been one in which "harmony has been the rule rather than the exception."

The 63-page document, like similar studies published by the National Planning Association on the causes of industrial peace, gives the lie to former Senator Ball and those who overemphasize the conflict in labor-management relations, and then proved to place the entire blame for such conflict on the shoulders of the trade movement.

The report states that the relations between labor and management in the Tennessee Valley Authority are "excellent," and are the result of improvements in the collective bargaining process engaged in during the 16-year history of the TVA by parties fully aware of each other's rights and responsibilities.

This gradual evolution of the bargaining process resulted in the negotiation of a general agreement between the AFL's Tennessee Valley Trades and Labor Council and the TVA which, since 1940, has been effectively carried out by both parties.

The real significance of this development, the report says, "rests in the fact that labor and management in TVA are eliminating striving, day by day, not only to live up to the terms of the general agreement but actually go beyond it. The general agreement provides the foundation upon which to build. It provides the guide or the rules to the game, but labor and management make it live and give it substance. The carrying out of the agreement is what makes the relations between labor and management successful and significant in the Tennessee Valley Authority.

"You can have the best written collective agreement in the whole field of labor-management, but, with the spirit is not there, where the agreement may be effective; it becomes nothing more than a scrap of paper."

Complimenting both the AFL unions and the TVA management, the report said: "One of the reasons for the outstanding success which has been achieved in the field of labor relations. They are:

"(1) The board of directors of TVA early decided on a policy of 'no strike' for the employees which made TVA the employer.

"(2) Management has proved by its deeds that it is constantly striving to deal fair and square with labor.

"(3) Labor has complete trust and faith in the executives of TVA.

"(4) The Tennessee Valley Trades and Labor Council has proved its responsible unions.

"(5) Officers of the Tennessee Valley Trades and Labor Council are real labor leaders of outstanding ability and character.

"(6) Both labor and management both know the value and meaning of collective bargaining.

"(7) TVA keeps the council fully informed of all matters of vital interest to the council.

"(8) The board of directors, past and present, and others having anything to do with TVA labor policy, insist on the whole been competent, intelligent, and realistic individuals."

AFL Urges Senate to Adopt Health Plan; Says Truman Program Only Sound One

Washington.—The American Federation of Labor called for the enactment of President Truman's national health program as the only practical way in which to make adequate medical care available for all the people of the nation.

Testifying before a Senate committee, Nelson H. Cruikshank, director of social insurance activities for the AFL, supported the Administration bill, S. 1679, and assailed substitute measures which have been introduced as "timorous, half-hearted and in many respects ill-advised."

Mr. Cruikshank declared that the proposed bill offers the only comprehensive program to deal effectively with the need for improvement in the distribution of medical care, a need now recognized even by the opponents of federal action in the field of health. He charged that other measures are unrealistic and fail completely to grasp the over-all nature of the problem since they are limited in scope and rely on the principle of providing medical care on a charity basis to those unable to pay the going rates for such service. He said:

"Senate bill 1679 presents a complete and comprehensive program to meet the health needs of the nation, resting on the firm foundation of the proven principle of contributory social insurance. The health insurance system established in Title VII of this bill is based on the principle that the people should pay their way in proportion to their means, in the main by small regular payments into the insurance fund, and should therefore have needed medical services as a right, not as a government charity. "This is an economically sound approach and consistent with our American principles and in line with the desire of every true American to maintain himself in decency and self-respect.

"This program provides insurance against the cost of medical care for hospitals to accept or reject patients.

"We submit that of the three proposals this is the only practical one. It is practical because it has taken into account all the many phases of the health problem, such as personnel, medical care and services."

The AFL spokesman asserted that the Truman program meets the objections of those who agree with the health insurance principle but object to enactment of such a program now because of lack of facilities. He pointed out that the comprehensive nature of the proposal includes provision for the training of doctors, dentists, nurses, in addition, Cruikshank declared, the bill provides similar assistance for the construction of new hospitals, clinics, and medical treatment centers which will be required to adequately meet the health needs of the nation.

Department Store Union Wins New Pension Plan

By DAN SMYTH
Chicago Correspondent of the AFL Weekly News Service

Chicago.—A pension plan for 1,500 AFL employes of The Fair, one of Chicago's biggest State Street department stores, has been negotiated by the Department Store Employes Union, local 291 (AFL).

Sylvester F. Sullivan, president of the local, said the plan is the first ever negotiated anywhere between a union and employer since the U. S. Supreme Court ruled pension demands are matters for collective bargaining under the law.

Pension plans of one sort or another are in effect in many retail trade establishments, however, as a matter of management policy. Most of them are small, established to give the store an alibi for unloading a superannuated worker.

Pensions at The Fair are guaranteed under the union's contract to anyone 65 or older, who, employed for 15 years, chooses or is made to retire. Retirement is not compulsory, provided the worker can do a competent job.

The amount of pension is 1 percent of the employe's average monthly earnings of the last 5 years' employment multiplied by his years of service.

So, a Fair store employe of 25 years' service who averaged $200 a month in his last 5 years could retire at 65 on a $50 monthly pension.

The Fair is extending its pension plan also to management and other nonunion personnel. There was no "Fair" in the union's original demanded one, according to Sullivan.

Pensions will be paid for entirely by the store, with no employe contribution.

The union is a local of the Building Service Employes International, which, along with the teamsters, is currently organizing a fresh movement to organize the downtown Chicago department stores, long an open-shop stronghold. The CIO retail workers union is organizing also are in the field.

"Since we negotiated the pension plan, we have had inquiries about it from other stores and from out of town," said Sullivan. "The advantages of a contract in writing are pretty obvious to others who don't know when they will be called in and asked to drop out of service for $20 a month or maybe less. Those who have been under their own pension plans, the workers don't usually know what they have coming."

Tobin Backs Antidiscrimination Bill; Holds it Keystone of Civil Rights Field

Washington.—Freedom to earn a living without being discriminated against because of race, color, religion or national origin is a fundamental right are the civil rights and freedom guaranteed by the Bill of Rights in the constitution of the United States, Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin told members of a congressional subcommittee on fair employment practice legislation.

"The freedoms of speech, assembly and religious worship are all precious," Secretary Tobin said. "But in order to enjoy these freedoms one must eat, and the existence of most of us and our families is dependent upon the wages and salaries we can earn. To deprive any person of the chance to make a living is to take one of the most fundamental of human rights."

Aside from moral and political considerations, Tobin said, "discrimination in employment," he declared, "subjects large segments of our population to substandard housing, inadequate medicals, poor health, inadequate education, and adversely affects the general welfare. Discrimination in employment depresses the wages and the income of the minority groups, resulting in a reduced purchasing power and potential market for goods, for which in turn results in reduced production. Reduced production cuts down employment. The impact of discrimination is therefore not only limited to the minorities but upon all us."

Tobin said that "legislation which relies primarily upon peaceful persuasion as a method of dealing with discriminatory employment practices is the most desirable approach to this problem."

The experience of the wartime FEPC and of state agencies administering fair employment practices statutes is evidence that the most effective weapon in combatting discrimination in employment is the informal method of conciliation and persuasion."

He told the committee that the Massachusetts legislature had passed such a law and that 10 other states and cities while he was wartime governor of Pennsylvania, he has since proved most effective in handling the problem of discrimination.

He emphasized that under provisions of the bill enforcement powers may be invoked only when informal methods have failed. He pointed out that in considering the legislation the committee has the benefit of the experience gained under FEPC legislation in force for several years in Massachusetts as well as in New York, Connecticut and New Jersey. Similar statutes without enforcement provisions have been in effect in Indiana and Wisconsin for about the same length of time, he declared, while 21 FEPC bills have been introduced during 1949 state legislative sessions.

988 ILGWU Members Get First Pension Payments

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent for AFL News Service

New York.—The employer-financed old age pension system of this city's largest industry, the dressmaking industry, went into effect last week with the retirement of 988 aged dressmakers.

Henceforth, the 85,000 members of the Dressmakers Joint Board of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union will be assured of a lifetime pension of $100 a month supplementing the Federal old age pension.

At special ceremonies here, ILGWU President Dubinsky pointed to a check "if you look back upon long months through collective bargaining in our industry, what appeared first as an additional cost has turned out shortly thereafter to be a factor in reducing industry cost."

The pension system is administered, under a collective bargaining agreement with employer associations, by a joint union-industry committee, the board of which is the industry's impartial chairman, Harry Uviller, who is empowered to break the deadlock.

The financing of the retirement fund is through a 2 percent tax on payrolls and as of May 1, a sum of $3,368,826 had been accumulated.

To be eligible for retirement, a worker must have been in good standing for 11 years since 1933 and consecutively for the last 5 years. To continue receiving his allowance, the worker is barred from working in the dress industry or if he takes employment in another industry, his earnings may not exceed the amount prescribed under the Social Security Act pension eligibility rules.

Julius Hochman, Dress Joint Board manager and chairman of the retirement fund of the dress industry, pointed out that the outstanding fact thus far is the unwillingness of workers to retire, not because of the size of the pension but because of a desire to remain active.

The first pension check went to Ike Simon, 70, a cutter and member in good standing of the Dress Joint Board for 25 years. Of the first 988 women who will now, that they are 65 years or over, receive pension checks each month.

IATSE HOLLYWOOD LOCAL SIGNS WITH 10 PRODUCERS

Hollywood, Calif.—The AFL's International Alliance of the Theatrical Stage Employes signed individual contracts with the 10 major movie studios. Roy Brewer, international representative, said that the agreements gave the union "sole jurisdiction over all machine and mechanical work in the industry."

He and Harry Shiffman, business agent for IATSE Local 789, hailed the contracts as "the end of the long strife, extending back 4 years, between the IATSE and the Conference of Studio Unions."

AFL Maps Showdown Fight As Senate Opens T-H Debate

Analysis of Taft Amendments

The following analysis of the proposed amendments to the Taft-Hartley law, advanced by Senator Robert A. Taft as a substitute for the labor-backed Thomas bill, was prepared by the law firm of Wolf, Green and Thatcher, general counsel to the American Federation of Labor:

In connection with the minority report of the Senate Labor Committee on the Thomas bill (S. 249), Senator Taft proposed certain amendments to the Taft-Hartley Act. If a bill were passed embodying these amendments, the result would be nothing but a slightly watered Taft-Hartley Act.

The bill would meet some of labor's objections to some of the more obviously offensive provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act, but it would still retain all of the Taft-Hartley Act's most objectionable features, namely, the use of injunctions both to curb various union unfair labor practices and to curb so-called "national emergency strikes," the prohibition of closed-shop agreements, the prohibitions on secondary boycotts, and the provisions for damage suits against labor organizations. In one very vital respect—that involving the use of injunctions in labor disputes—the Taft-Hartley Act amendment is even more objectionable than the Taft-Hartley provisions for the reason that, under the Taft amendment, the President can obtain an injunction at any time, while under the Taft-Hartley Act he can do so only after the Presidential board has gone into the dispute and has issued a report.

In respect to injunctions against union unfair labor practices, while the mandatory injunctions against secondary boycotts and jurisdictional strikes contained in Taft-Hartley are eliminated—nevertheless the board's general counsel retains complete discretion to seek injunctions against any type of alleged union unfair labor practice, including secondary boycotts, once a complaint has been issued. Since the general counsel has unlimited discretion to issue complaints, it is clear that, as a practical matter, all of the injunctive dangers of Taft-Hartley are also inherent in the Taft amendments.

The Taft amendment completely prohibits all types of closed-shop agreements where union membership is required prior to or at the time of employment, except that, if a union can qualify a number of employment opportunities and the union can refer qualified applicants for employment, the Taft amendment will permit a closed-shop. There is also a more specific relaxing of the prohibition against employers employing union members as a result of hiring halls where the exception would be of very immaterial assistance even in the hiring hall situation which it presumably is intended to cover.

Union-shop agreements are permitted as under Taft-Hartley, but the majority safeguards which the unions are entitled to under present law require discharges of employes not only for nonpayment of dues as under Taft-Hartley, but also for participation in a "wild cat" strike or for being affiliated with the Communist party. However, the Taft-Hartley union-shop provisions are retained as well as the provisions in the Taft-Hartley Act making all state anticlosed-shop or antiunion security laws inapplicable to interstate commerce.

All of the Taft-Hartley Act's prohibitions on secondary boycotts and jurisdictional strikes are retained, with the one slight exception that a secondary boycott is permitted against work transferred from a struck plant.

The provisions penalizing the Taft-Hartley unions for engaging in damage suits for breaches of contract or for violations of the secondary boycott and jurisdictional strike restrictions are retained in full.

The following is a provision-by-provision comparison of the Taft amendments with the Taft-Hartley Act, showing what, if any, changes are made in respect to each of the 20 main provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act.

1. Disenfranchisement of economic strikers—repealed.
2. Blanket prohibition against coercion of employes by unions—retained, except the word "restraint" is eliminated.
3. Broad prohibitions concerning boycotting—retained, with the minor exception that a union may induce employes in another plant to refrain from working on struck work transferred from the plant where a labor dispute exists.
4. Prohibition against jurisdictional disputes—retained, except that either the Labor Board or an arbitrator appointed by the board may finally decide the dispute.
5. Ban on closed shop—retained, but union shop—retained in most respects, with the modifications discussed above.
6. Exclusion of supervisors from all protection against employer discrimination and refusal to bargain—retained, except definition of "supervisor" slightly changed.
7. Provision permitting employer to use "free" speech to abuse unions if the threat of reprisal—modified by eliminating the prohibition against the use of such statements as evidence of unfair labor practices, but extending the provision to union employers.
8. Non-Communist affidavit, registration and other filing requirements—retained as to unions, but the Taft amendments to simplify these requirements are likewise obliged to file non-Communist or non-Fascist affidavits, but otherwise the requirements are simplified.
9. Restrictions on excessive initiation fees—retained.
10. Restrictions on "featherbedding"—retained.
11. Definition of good-faith bargaining—retained.
12. Cooling-off provisions and decertification—retained.
13. Opening of federal courts to damage suits for breaches of contracts and for violations of secondary boycott provisions—retained, with slight limitation respecting working on struck work discussed above.
14. Craft unit provisions—retained.
15. Craft unit provisions—retained and enlarged by prohibiting authorizations for check-off of assessments, which is permitted under Taft-Hartley. Welfare fund agreements placed under supervision of Secretary of Labor.
16. Provision for 60-day notice of termination or modification of existing agreements—retained, and requires 60-day notice of reopening, as well as of modification or termination.
17. Separate certification of professional employes—retained.
18. Provision for enjoining strikes in emergency situations, 80-day "cooling off" period and "last offer" election indicated above, substantially retained and even strengthened by permitting President to seek injunction even before the Presidential Board makes its report. The injunction must be dissolved at the end of 60 days. The "last offer" election is eliminated, but the Board is authorized to make recommendations as to what is proper. The seizure provisions which the President may invoke as an alternative to injunctions, or which may be invoked by the President after several in terms and do not specify what happens during the period of seizure in respect to the termination or the retention of union security.
19. Restrictions on political contributions by labor organizations—modified and certain exceptions in welfare funds and in separate segregated funds are still outlawed.
20. Separation of powers as between board and general counsel—eliminated.

Conclusion

The foregoing section-by-section comparison of the proposed Taft amendments with the Taft-Hartley Act indicates conclusively that those amendments do not in any substantial or fundamental manner reach the basic objections which labor has consistently raised to the Taft-Hartley Act. All of the major objections which labor has to the Taft-Hartley Act are retained, namely, injunctions against union unfair practices and in national emergency disputes, damage suits, the prohibition of the closed shop, and secondary boycotts. The concessions that have been made in the Taft proposals do not reach these fundamentally objectionable features. Indeed, they do not even meet many of the legitimate objections labor has made to less fundamental provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act. The Taft bill would not, any more than the Wood bill, be considered in any way an adequate substitute for the Thomas or Lesinski bills.

Local Representatives Will Express Views To Senators

Washington.—Labor marshaled its forces for a showdown in labor legislation as the Senate prepared to open debate on the Thomas bill, the AFL-supported measure to repeal the Taft-Hartley law.

At the call of AFL President William Green some 200 representatives of state federations of labor and key city central labor unions began converging on Washington to lend their efforts in a final campaign to obtain favorable action on Capitol Hill.

The union representatives from "back home" are scheduled to meet in a joint strategy session with the AFL's National Legislative Council. Mr. Green urged that they remain in the city, keeping in close touch with their Senators and Congressmen, until final action is taken by the Senate on the Thomas bill.

Meanwhile, reactionaries in the Senate, led by Ohio's Robert A. Taft, prepared a last-ditch fight to retain and strengthen the Taft-Hartley law's stranglehold over the labor movement. Senator Taft has proposed a set of amendments to the law which he helped sire in the 80th Congress the net result of which is to retain all the essential objectionable features opposed by labor. Actually, the Taft amendments would make the injunction provisions of the Taft-Hartley law tougher than ever.

The AFL is standing firm in its traditional opposition to any legislation which will restore the Wagner Act in place of the so-called Taft-Hartley law, with certain amendments. The AFL is actively campaigning and to protect the public interest in labor disputes and is working to bring about a national emergency strike—short of intimidation and coercion.

A provision authorizing the President of the United States to seize property in behalf of the government for 30 days any struck plant or industry which he deems threatens to bring about a national emergency.

These amendments, the Executive Council said, represent "the limit to which organized labor can go. The Taft-Hartley Act as it now reads will never accept or agree to any provision authorizing the issuance of injunctions in labor-management disputes."

ILGWU Members Get Vacation Pay

New York.—Members of the AFL's International Ladies Garment Workers Union looked forward to the approaching summer season as the payment of $6,000,000 worth of vacation pay was scheduled to start in the mails and over the metropolitan area, Connecticut and New Jersey.

The majority of the workers received checks last week from each of the union's Dress Joint Board which represents the 85,000 workers employed in this segment of the garment industry. Payments for those workers will amount to about $2,750,000.

The payments are made from an employer-financed welfare fund. Because there is so much turnover in the industry, a centralized record of each worker's employment is kept. In this way a worker who has been employed in a half-dozen or more factories during the year can qualify for full vacation, even though he has not been employed there a month or two in any one place.

Another branch of the ILGWU, the Cloak Joint Board, announced that 45,000 members were also receiving vacation checks. The union estimated that it would distribute $2,750,000 to its members, whose earnings are higher than those of dressmakers.

The affiliate of the ILGWU, the Knitgoods Workers' Union, announced that it would distribute $250,000 in vacation pay to its members.

NATIONAL GRANGE SUPPORTS FARMERS' SOCIAL SECURITY

Washington.—Albert S. Goss, master of the National Grange, backed up the AFL proposals for the extension of the Social Security system to include farmers.

In a letter to Representative Robert L. Doughton, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, which has been conducting hearings on the measure, Mr. Goss declared that the proposed administrative plans for the inclusion of farmers under the system were satisfactory to his organization.

The method used to handle farmers' accounts had until recently been a stumbling block which prevented the National Grange from fully endorsing the AFL proposals.

The National Farmers Union, representing some 200,000 members, previously supported the stand taken by the American Federation of Labor.

ILGWU SIGNS DRESS FIRMS IN ORGANIZING CAMPAIGN

New York.—The International Ladies Garment Workers Union reported gains in membership, made in the remaining open shops in the city's garment industry.

Charles S. Zimmerman, vice president of the union, announced the signing of a contract with Jonathan Logan, Inc., which until the agreement was reached was one of the largest non-union dressmaking firms here. The company, which employs 2,000 workers, signed the standard ILGWU contract with dress association.

TRUMAN APPROVES BILL FOR TVA STEAM PLANT

Washington.—Construction of the Tennessee Valley Authority's new steam plant at Johnsonville, Tenn., was assured here with the signing by President Truman of a $324,700,000 deficiency appropriation which included funds for that purpose.

The 81st Congress approved the TVA project which raised a storm of controversy from the private power interests. Last year in the Republican-controlled 80th Congress, those interests were successful in killing the plan which is estimated to cost $2,360,000.